

# More than \$2 million in capital credits are on the way to Coastal Electric members

If you were a Coastal Electric Cooperative member at any point from 2005 to 2007, the cooperative wants to give you money back.

In fact, Coastal Electric will retire more than \$2 million in capital credits this month to members who received service in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Coastal Electric operates differently from other businesses. One unique practice of the co-op business model is retiring capital credits. When member revenues exceed costs, those margins become the member's equity in the cooperative. When the financial strength of the cooperative allows, the board of directors can order the return of a portion of that equity.

Those who pay bills to Coastal Electric are more than customers—they are members. Coastal Electric has no need to generate profits, so members' electric bills collectively cover what is needed to supply power to their homes and businesses, from generating the power at plants and buying lines and poles that deliver electricity to maintaining equipment to keep service reliable and compensating employees who make it all happen.

When the co-op's elected board of directors determines it is financially feasible, Coastal Electric retires excess margins back to members who have paid their electric bills.

Checks will be mailed in

December to everyone receiving a refund of more than \$25. Amounts less than \$25 will be delivered in the form of bill credits.

To date, Coastal Electric has retired more than \$13 million in capital credits to members.

Inactive or former members who no longer purchase electricity from Coastal Electric (but who purchased electricity during the years being retired) receive capital credits checks, too. So if you ever move off the Coastal Electric system, be sure to keep your address up to date in the co-op's records so you can receive capital credits when the time comes.

For more information on capital credits, visit [www.CoastalElectric.Coop/capital-credits](http://www.CoastalElectric.Coop/capital-credits).

## You get the credit

### How you get money back over time

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Coastal Electric operates differently from other businesses. One special practice of the co-op business model is retiring capital credits. Capital credits are allocated based on how much electricity you use in a given year.



Revenues



Expenses



Co-op margins

Capital Credits



### Co-op margins

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# Coastal Electric members donate

Thanks to the generosity of Coastal Electric Cooperative members, local teachers recently received more than \$40,000 in Bright Ideas grants to fund their innovative project ideas.

In October, Coastal Electric CEO Chris Fettes and staff visited 29 classrooms in Bryan, Liberty and McIntosh counties to bring teachers' innovative ideas to reality.

Funding for Bright Ideas grants comes from Coastal Electric members who allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the next dollar through the Operation Round Up program. Those nickels and dimes are pooled together and invested back into the community through the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation.

Since the inception of the Bright Ideas program in 2002, almost half a million dollars has been awarded to give local teachers the power to put their creative teaching ideas into action.

Richmond Hill Middle School (RHMS) won seven Bright Ideas grants this year. Among them was Riley Scheyder's \$1,738.57 project idea to allow students to explore physics by analyzing disc golf frisbees and ultimately creating their own, which will be sent to the Professional Disc Golf Association for approval.



RHMS's Marinda Walker, Lisa Tuttle, Amanda Flanders and Ryan Books teamed up to write a \$1,935.41 grant proposal that will foster collaboration among STEAM students and special education students. The project idea was sparked when students noticed a decline in the campus bird population, hence the name Home Tweet Home: Habitat Restoration and Inclusivity. The grant will now allow them to take ini-

tiative to solve the problem by researching nesting habits, birdhouse sizes, preferred wildflowers and diet before constructing birdhouses and feeders.

McIntosh County Academy boasted four winning Bright Ideas grants this year, including Hayley Napfel's \$1,859.14 project, Inspiring Visual Exploration with a Pinhole Camera. Napfel's students will construct pinhole cameras and learn to use them, exploring science and art. Students will learn photography fundamentals like light, composition, exposure times and darkroom processes.

Ruby Williford will raise up MCA Entrepreneurs of the Future as students design, manufacture, market, sell and distribute their own school spirit products. Williford says many of her students would like to one day start businesses, and her Bright Ideas grant will give them their first taste of the process.

At Liberty College and Career Academy, Denisia Pope's Healthcare Science associates will use virtual reality to experience what it's like to live with Alzheimer's disease, the most common





# more than \$64,000 to local schools



cause of dementia. Her winning \$1,840 grant project, Forget-Me-Not, will build empathy among budding health care professionals and improve health outcomes.

Liberty County High School students will create how-to YouTube videos to serve as guides for local citizens in search of employment as part of Dr. Susan McCormack's Together We Can grant project. As a result, students will not only invest in their community, but learn business skills like goal setting, action plans and project development.

Students at Button Gwinnett Elementary School will Snap Into Science and Writing, thanks to Tracie Chavis' \$859.73 winning Bright Ideas grant. Each student will receive a bottle of Snapple, which they will use to participate in research projects based on fun facts found under Snapple lids. Students will reuse the bottles for a variety of science experiments.

In addition to Bright Ideas grants, the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation awarded \$1,000 checks to 24 principals in Bryan, Liberty and McIntosh counties to be donated to principal funds, with the intention that the monies would be used to meet students' and teachers' needs throughout the school year.

To learn more about this year's Bright Ideas grant winners and principal funds, connect with Coastal Electric on Facebook, Instagram and X.







## *Have A Light, Bright, Safe & Happy Holiday Season!*

Coastal Electric Cooperative is grateful for our members at the holidays and every day. May your home radiate peace, comfort, joy and warmth always.

*We look forward to 2024, continuing to provide you with more energy saving programs and developing services that will benefit the communities we serve.*

*Merry Christmas*

*from all of us at*



CoastalElectric.coop

(800) 421-2343

Coastal Electric will be closed for the holidays Dec. 25–26 and Jan. 1.

